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LETTER DATED 24 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I wish to inform you as follows:

1. On 2 and 3 August 1998, the Kuwaiti side, under armed threat, kidnapped two members of the Iraqi border police stationed at the Hadiya and Karah al-Abd guard posts, and tortured them. The second was released, while the fate of the first is not known. They are:

(a) Muhammad Jabar Arar;

(b) Sa'dun Tawfan Hadi.

2. At 14.30 hours on 15 August 1998, two small Kuwaiti patrol boats armed with PKT machine-guns were seen opposite buoy number 23 at coordinates 1122 (1:100,000 map of Faw) inside the demilitarized zone on the Kuwaiti side.

3. At 11.45 hours on 16 August 1998, a Kuwaiti tug accompanied by three boats armed with PKS machine-guns was seen opposite buoy number 23 at coordinates 1122 (1:100,000 map of Faw) inside the demilitarized zone on the Kuwaiti side. At 14.30 hours the tug departed with the boats in the direction of the sea.

4. At 12.30 hours on 17 August 1998, a Kuwaiti tug with two patrol boats armed with PKS machine-guns was seen opposite buoy number 23 (1:100,000 map of Faw) inside the demilitarized zone on the Kuwaiti side. At 14.10 hours the tug departed with the two boats in the direction of the sea.

I should be grateful if you would intervene with Kuwait to put an end to these unjustified violations and provocations, which have recently increased in frequency, since they offend against the United Nations Charter and the provisions of international public law, and threaten the sovereignty and security of a Member State of the United Nations.

I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to demand legal compensation for the damage inflicted by such actions on it, on its citizens and on their property in accordance with the principle of State responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative